

Remarks

Claim Rejections

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Naruse et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,930,881). *Office Action* p. 2. Specifically, the Examiner states that Naruse teaches a method of assembling a component in an assembly (20) comprising: positioning the component in an assembly (20) in accordance with a proposed positioning in the assembly (20), sensing that the component is in its correct special position in the assembly by use of sensing means (76) capable of sensing spacing relationship, and communicating information regarding said position to an information processing means. *Id.* at pages 2-3.

The difference between Naruse and Applicant's invention is that Applicant's sensing means is incorporated within the component while Naruse's is external to the component. Applicant clearly describes in its specification that "(e)ach component 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20 has sensing means 38, 40, 42 and 44, one located at each of corners 30, 32, 34, and 36, respectively." See *Published Specification* paragraph 0073 and *Figures*. Naruse describes that the distance sensor 76 opposes the wheel (component) that it is aligning. *Naruse*, column 14, lines 41-54. Since the distance sensor opposes the wheel, it cannot be incorporated within the wheel and must be external to the component. Applicant has amended Claim 1 to further distinguish the fact that the sensing means is incorporated within the component. As such, Applicant respectfully asks that the Examiner reconsider the rejection to Claim 1.

Claims 7 and 8 are dependant on Claim 1 and Applicant believes they will be allowable once Claim 1 is reconsidered.

Conclusion

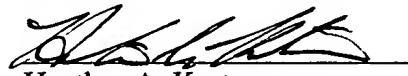
In light of the above claim amendments, Applicant believes this application is now in good form for allowance and respectfully requests that the Examiner grant allowance in this case.

Authorization

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Reply, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-3791.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Director is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-3791.

Sincerely:



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